Trinity — A Century of Singing!

By Bill Habermann

Since Martin Luther’s printing of a hymnal in 1524, Lutherans have been a singing church. His hymnal had only 8 hymns, of which 4 were written by Luther.

During his lifetime he wrote many more — 18 of which are in our present hymnal. His first hymn was “Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice” and with our singing we truly rejoice. Leading in that rejoicing at Trinity were four organs.

The first was a reed pump organ that led the singing and liturgy music beginning in 1919 through 1936, when a Hammond organ was purchased. The reed organ was loaned to Spanaway Lutheran and later given to the Servicemen’s Center. When the Center “closed its doors” sealed bids were taken for the organ and Dorothy Meyers, of Yelm, won the bid. Where it is now is not known. The reed organ at the front of our chancel is similar, but not the original used at Trinity.

Second came the Hammond electronic bought in 1936 for $1,395.00 with monies from Mr. and Mrs. Nels Eggen. It was installed May of 1937 and dedicated on October 17, 1937. After 7 years of use the congregation “stepped up to a pipe organ.” The Hammond was sold for $1,700.00 and that cash was applied to the purchase of a Wurlitzer (Opus 789) theater organ. When “talkies” came to movie theaters the pipe organs which had been used to accompany the “silent films” were often purchased by churches. The Wurlitzer had 4 ranks (sets) of pipes: 8’ Trumpet, Salicional and Vox Humana plus a 16’ Flute, for a total of only 292 pipes. Trinity had 3 more ranks added, probably a Principal and Diapason, but I have not found any information about the third or if my guess of the two I mentioned is even correct. The pipes were in the room now used to store the church banner and the console was where the sound and lighting controls now are.
By 1959 the Wurlitzer was “worn out/in unreliable condition” and was really inadequate. Wurlitzers were loud so the sound probably was ample for the size of the chancel, but not the kind of sound for a church. It was installed until “an adequate organ could be procured.” An Organ Committee, chaired by Dr. W. Schnackenberg, began the study of builders across the US and chose the Schlicker Organ Company of Buffalo, New York. In 1962 an organ fund was begun. To raise money “families were challenged to join the dollar a week club” — to help make the $47,000.00 cost a reality. The committee recommended a 3-manual instrument and the agreement was signed December 7, 1965.

It took 2 years to build the organ and it was installed in summer of 1969.

A dedication concert was given on September 7, with Professor David Dahl of the PLU Department of Music as organist. He had been very involved with the Trinity Organ Committee. A concert celebrating the 25th anniversary of the organ dedication was held on April 30, 1994 with Professor Dahl at the console. This year the Schlicker will see its 50th year of leading us in worship and concerts.

Some Trinity Schlicker Trivia:

- There have been some upgrades for the organ, but at a maximum it had 2,235 pipes.
- The smallest pipe is about the size of pencil, the largest is 18½ feet long and weighs 100+ pounds.
- There now are 38 ranks (sets) of pipes as of 1969, each having a unique sound. To control those sounds the organist has 30 stop tabs (to turn on/off sets of pipes) as the music may require.
- There are 3 manuals (keyboards) of 61 keys and 32 foot pedals. We hear sounds from 32 cycles per second at the lowest pedal pipes to close to 18,000 cps for the very shortest (¾-inch speaking length) pipes.
* A most recent addition to the organ, given by Jeanette Pilgrim (1935-2016) as a memorial to her husband and daughter is a “Zimbelstern” — small bells rung by a rotating “clapper” to add a festive sound to the pipe sounds.

![Image of Zimbelstern](image1.png)

* It was built and installed by Paul Fritts Organ Builders, Parkland, WA. Jeanette and her husband Dr. Walter Pilgrim (both now in heaven) were long-time members of Trinity.

The following is an excerpt from the dedicatory bulletin:

Zimbelsterns are a percussion stop found on many organs. They were particularly common in organs in northern Europe, especially those in German Lutheran churches in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. The name zimbelstern means “cymbal star,” and is descriptive of the stop’s typical construction of a wooden star (or wheel) on which several small bells are suspended. When the stop is engaged, wind from the organ blows a set of wooden vanes that turns a set of clappers that continuously strike the bells. The new zimbelstern was built by Bruce Schull of Paul Fritts & Co. Organ Builders, Tacoma, using bells cast both in India and in France. It is mounted high in the organ towards the front of the case in the Great division. The zimbelstern is a gift from Jeanette Pilgrim given in memory of her husband, Dr. Walter Pilgrim (1934–2008) and their daughter Kathryn (1960–2013).

If you’d like more information about the organ, Dr. Wohlers, our Director of Music and Organist, would be happy to speak with you.

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**From the Sunday, December 5, 1954 Tacoma Sunday Tribune:**

“Trinity Lutheran Church, Parkland, is proceeding with plans to build a new church building. An architect has been engaged and plans are being formulated.

The congregation, which numbers 1,195 persons, built a parish house in 1950 to house its Sunday School of 630 students. A new church is now needed to replace the old one now used for worship.

The Rev. Erling C. Thompson is pastor of Trinity. He came last May.”
Trinity’s Chapel Organ

Trinity Lutheran also houses and uses a very special organ on loan from Pacific Lutheran University.

In the 1980’s, Professor David Dahl worked with Trinity organist Greg Peterson and PLU Music Chair David Robbins and then Pastor Rick Halverson to come to an agreement for Trinity to house an organ that was currently in the possession of PLU.

The “Kilgen Organ” built in 1890 (Opus 14) by George Kilgen & Son, was one of the first organs to travel to the western United States via ship, around the tip of South America. Its first home was First Presbyterian in Seattle; in the early 1970’s it was donated to PLU as a practice organ and was housed in the basement of what is now Anderson Center.

The agreement was that Trinity house the organ with full use of the instrument. PLU would refurbish, install and use the organ for practice or concert purposes for its music program when it was not being used by Trinity. This partnership continues through today, with this very special organ still in Trinity’s chapel. “The Kilgen” has been recognized by the Organ Historical Society with a framed certificate on the wall near the organ.

The chapel itself had to be remodeled to accommodate the organ; Trinity volunteers Oscar Morken, Greg Durston and other volunteers worked on the remodeling; Oscar Morken built the new case for the organ and his brother George refurbished the pedals.

Centennial Offering

There is a line item on our church budget listed as “Centennial offering”. This is a special offering for this, our centennial year only. The plan is to use about one half of the centennial offering to help others in our Parkland community.

Everyone in the congregation could contribute to the offering..... How about encouraging our little children to save 100 pennies or youth to save 100 nickels or 100 dimes? Could our teen age kids save 100 quarters? How about you? Can you save 100 dollar bills or even 100 ten dollar bills?? Personally, I’m going for 100 five dollar bills... yes, $500.00 from me for this centennial year for a special centennial offering. I will divide it up for each month until I reach the $500.00 mark. What can you do? — Anonymous

To the right and above: The building of the Bell Tower in 1959.

Pastors Erling Thompson, Robert Drewes & Theodore Gulhaugen

To the left: William Labes, Dale Storaasli, Dick Myking & Jim Scearce
What was the Cold War?

• From the end of World War II in 1945 to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the Cold War dominated international affairs.

• It was a global struggle between the United States and the Soviet Union. Although the Cold War was sometimes fought on the battlefield, it involved everything from political rhetoric to sports. Overshadowing all was the threat of nuclear war. (Santos, et al.)
“The Lord is risen!

He is risen, indeed!”
April Birthdays

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Celebrating Quilts! .... Saturday, March 16 was a celebration of new and old quilts on National Quilting Day and a demonstration of how we make quilts now as well as in the past. Attendees tried their hand at tying knots on a Lutheran World Relief quilt on an old-fashioned quilt frame as well as designing a quilt on a "quilt design board". But the main attraction was at least 126 quilted pieces, some quilts over 100 years old! Many of the contemporary quilts were masterpieces of design and color. Throughout the day, attendees were served finger-food and coffee. It was quite the celebration! See the pictures of the event on the bulletin board near Thompson Hall.

Lutheran World Relief has been asking for and receiving quilts for 70 years; that would be since 1949 or 1950. In the history of Trinity Lutheran Church Women in the 75th anniversary book, up through 1981 that there were "over 2500 quilts" made and sent to Lutheran World Relief. Estimates (remembering how many quilts we generally have been sending each spring and fall and using the numbers given in the 75th anniversary book and adding to that number) is that "at least 6700 quilts have been made by Trinity Quilters and sent to Lutheran World Relief since 1970."
**Coming events …**

- Trinity Quilters: Apr 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- Exercise For Life: Apr 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19, 22, 24, 26, 29
- Senior Meal: Apr 1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 29
- Trinity Café Prep: Apr 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- Men Of Trinity (MOT) Bible Study: Apr 1, 15, 29
- Relay for Life: Apr 1
- Volunteer Corps: Apr 2, 16
- Food Pantry Open: Apr 2, 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16, 19, 21, 23, 26, 28, 30
- Nurse Is In: Apr 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
- Al-Anon: Apr 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
- Safe Streets: Apr 2
- Lunch In Trinity Café: Apr 3, 10, 17, 24
- Lenten Afternoon Worship: Apr 3, 10
- Lenten Soup Supper and Evening Worship: Apr 3, 10
- Cantate Choir Rehearsal: Apr 3, 10, 17, 24
- FA Recovery Group: Apr 6, 13, 20, 27
- Catechesis: Apr 7, 14, 21, 28
- Altar Guild: Apr 7
- CONNECT: Apr 7, 14, 21, 28
- Sacred Harp Shape Notes Singing Group: Apr 7
- Co-Dependency Anonymous (CODA): Trinity Quilters: Apr 7, 14, 21, 28
- Preservin’ Pierce Canning: Apr 9, 23
- Senior Foot Care: Apr 9
- TLC Women: Apr 9
- PLU Poverty Immersion Workshop: Apr 11
- Toastmasters: Apr 11, 25
- Accordion Social: Apr 11
- Scrappy Ladies Quilting: Apr 12, 26
- Palm Sunday: Apr 14
- Prayers For Healing: Apr 14, 28
- Way of the Cross: Apr 15-20
- Esther Circle: Apr 16
- Mary-Martha & Rachel Circle: Apr 16
- Emergency Food Network (EFN) Delivery: Apr 17
- Maundy Thursday: Apr 18
- Good Friday: Apr 19
- MOT Cemetery Clean-Up: Apr 20
- Easter: Apr 21
- Easter Breakfast: Apr 21
- Miriam Circle: Apr 25
- Reading Club: Apr 25

**Trinity Worship Services in April 2019**

**Sundays**

- 9:00 am Worship: Apr 7, 14 (Palm Sunday), 21 (Easter Sunday), 28
- 11:00 am Worship: Apr 7, 14, 21, 28

**Mid-Week**

- Way of the Cross 11:30 am: Apr 15-20
- Wednesdays 12:45 pm: Apr 3, 10
- Wednesdays 6:45 pm: Apr 3, 10
- Maundy Thursday 12:45 pm: Apr 18
- Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm: Apr 18
- Good Friday 12:45 pm: Apr 19
- Good Friday 7:00 pm: Apr 19

**Remember that Trinity’s 100th Anniversary Celebration will be held the weekend of September 7 & 8, 2019:**

- Saturday, the 7th there will be a Centennial Banquet held at Pacific Lutheran University
- Sunday, September 8th we’ll have one Centennial Worship Service at 10:00 am followed by a celebratory meal.
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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The Centennial Messenger

Celebrating the past while growing into the future